

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT
PUBLIC HEARING

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IN RE: ARKANSAS SENATE DISTRICTS and)
ARKANSAS HOUSE DISTRICTS.)
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Tuesday, November 28, 2000
Cossatot Vocational Technical College
Fire Training Center
Highway 399
DeQueen, Arkansas
10:30 a.m.

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

ON BEHALF OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE:

OLAN "BUTCH" REEVES
GREG KIRKPATRICK
CHRISTY ROGERS

ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE:

TIM HUMPHRIES

ON BEHALF OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

LARRY CRANE

COURT REPORTER:

DEBBYE L. PETRE, CCR
Petre's Stenograph Service
P. O. Box 1027
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

ALSO PRESENT:

CHAD GALLAGHER, MAYOR OF DEQUEEN
DON BAKER, PIKE COUNTY JUDGE
THOMAS M. SHAW
DEWAYNE MACK, STATE REPRESENTATIVE
FRANK ADAMS, COSSATOT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

GARY D. MOORE, MAYOR OF BEN LOMOND
JOHN HICKEL
SANDRA DUNN, COUNTY CLERK, DEQUEEN
ANN BLACKWELL, MAYOR OF GILLHAM
LARRY TEAGUE, STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DICK TALLMAN, SEVIER COUNTY JUDGE
KEN COWLING, STATE REPRESENTATIVE NUMBER 20
WAUSITA HINTON, COUNCILMAN OF FOREMAN

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2000

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5 MR. OLAN REEVES: I think we are about
6 ready to get started. I would like to
7 welcome everybody today. Please sign in at
8 the sign-in sheet so we can keep a record of
9 the people who were here. We are going to
10 open it up for questions in a few minutes.
11 And when we do, we would ask that you state
12 your name. The court reporter is taking
13 everything down. If she doesn't get your
14 name, it is going to say "unidentified male"
15 or "unidentified female", so please state
16 your name so the Board will know who you are
17 and what your comments are, and talk loud
18 enough for Ms. Petre to hear you.

19 I'm Butch Reeves from the Governor's
20 office. The three Board of Apportionment
21 members, the Governor, the Secretary of
22 State, and the Attorney General, members of
23 their staffs are here. Tim Humphries from
24 Sharon Priest's office; Larry Crane from the
25 Attorney General's office, Mark Pryor; Greg

1 Kirkpatrick from the Governor's office, and
2 Christy Rogers from the Governor's office,
3 as well.

4 We are going to Hot Springs this
5 afternoon. We have been to several cities
6 and have got four more to go, not including
7 Hot Springs.

8 We've got some handouts over here which
9 have the current maps for your current
10 Senate and House districts, plus the Census
11 Bureau has given us their 1999 projections
12 of what they think the population increases
13 are by county. That's merely a projection.
14 That's not based on the census numbers that
15 they have taken. We just -- we need to come
16 and get your comments of what you like and
17 don't like. We have already heard some of
18 those. But we would like for you to repeat
19 those to get them on the record so the Board
20 can hear that, hear what you like about
21 District 18, 19, and 20, and what you don't
22 like. We are used to that. We have been

23 everywhere and everybody says, "Fix this in
24 my county," "Fix this in my county." That's
25 why we are here, we want you to tell us

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1 those things. I know we have people from
2 Howard County, Pike County, Sevier County.
3 I don't remember another county, I didn't
4 see anybody from Miller County.

5 We appreciate you being here.
6 Basically, what will happen -- let me tell
7 you, this is our website, the re-districting
8 office has a web page with lots of
9 information on it. It has court cases, a
10 scenario of what the legal guidelines are,
11 it also has a time line, it has a whole
12 bunch of stuff. This is our website. If
13 you log onto that, you can even leave
14 comments for the Board to see. In fact, you
15 can read other comments from other people
16 that have left them on there, too. So you
17 can log on there any time. We have a

18 re-districting office where this computer is
19 actually kept.

20 Ron Sheffield is the, I guess, the
21 coordinator for the Board of Apportionment
22 in that office, in the Aegon Building across
23 from the State Capitol. This is what the
24 first page looks like.

25 We do have some time lines of when

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1 things will happen. The President, as far
2 as congressional re-districting, will get
3 the numbers in January. We will get the
4 census numbers by March 31st, sometime
5 between March 1st and March 31st, we will
6 get those numbers from the Census Bureau.
7 This time, unlike 1990, the numbers will
8 come in by precinct, not township as they
9 did before. So we will be using precincts
10 to draw the House and Senate districts,
11 whereas last time they used townships.

12 Townships don't mean as much as they

13 used to, and the lines are kind of quirky
14 sometimes. So we are going to use precincts
15 as reported by each county to the Census
16 Bureau. So your county has sent in your
17 precinct maps, guidelines, to the Census
18 Bureau, that's the number -- that's how we
19 will get those numbers. Those are the
20 numbers we will use in drawing your House
21 and Senate district. That will happen about
22 March -- by March 31st. It takes a few days
23 once we get those numbers to load them in
24 the computer.

25 We have a computer software that we are

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1 using this time called Auto Bounds that will
2 help us draw these lines. We are going to
3 show you a brief demonstration of that in a
4 little bit. After the proposal by the staff
5 that the Board has approved, it will merely
6 be a draft plan, it will be posted on our
7 website, we will come back out to your area

8 next summer, June, July, hopefully have the
9 Board hear all your comments again. If you
10 are very unhappy about it, we will be back,
11 you can tell us you are unhappy.

12 The Board will review those and vote on
13 the plan sometime in September. We hope by
14 October the 1st to have the plan finalized.

15 In September, when the Board meets, of
16 course, there will be a big meeting in
17 Little Rock, and you are welcome to come
18 down there, but we will have come back to
19 your area, maybe not DeQueen, maybe not the
20 Cossatot Technical College, but somewhere in
21 your area, so you will have access to the
22 plan on the website before we get here. So
23 hopefully by October 1st, we will have the
24 plan voted on by the Board.

25 The reason for that is so if you want

1 to run for a House or Senate district and
2 you need to move to establish residency, you

3 will have a whole year to do it, that's
4 really why we do it, because you have to do
5 it before the next election, 2002. This
6 software is fairly convenient, I think it is
7 one of the best we saw. We went to Georgia
8 and saw several software companies come,
9 this is the one we have chosen. It tells us
10 a whole bunch of stuff about each precinct
11 when we pull it up that helps us draw the
12 lines.

13 I'm assuming Sevier County has grown
14 some, I imagine Pike County has grown. How
15 much will depend on what size district you
16 have. We are projecting that the current
17 House district for the next plan will be a
18 little over 25,000 plus. This time, it was
19 23 something, 23,400, something like that.
20 A Senate district this time was 67, we think
21 it will be something about 72 plus. So
22 those will be the sizes. So, if your
23 district has grown from 23,400 to 25,000
24 something, that will comprise the district.
25 If it has grown more than that, your

1 district will have to shrink some to get the
2 25,000 in there. That's just the dynamic of
3 how it works.

4 There are some guidelines that the
5 Supreme Court has set that we will have to
6 follow, and our website talks about what
7 those are, trying to keep communities of
8 interest together, trying to keep
9 compactness, making districts as compact as
10 you can. In rural counties, that's a little
11 difficult, when you have to string out the
12 people because of all the -- like the
13 National Forest, especially, in this part of
14 the state, prevent people from living in
15 those areas. But those are some of the
16 things that we will take into consideration.

17 Incumbency is something else we are
18 allowed to take in, to think about. So I
19 can't tell you exactly what the Board is
20 going to look at. They haven't decided yet
21 exactly what the guidelines are going to be.
22 We are hoping you give us some information
23 today that helps them frame that when they
24 get ready to vote on it and talk about it.
25 So when you see the plan posted on the

1 website next April or May, it is a proposal,
2 it is a draft, it is not the final plan.

3 I know in '91 they came back out, had
4 the meetings, and went back and changed the
5 plan, based on comments they heard from some
6 of the people at some of the meetings. So,
7 you know, don't get too up in arms, just let
8 us know what you like or don't like. We
9 really want to hear what you have to say.

10 I would like for Tim to kind of go over
11 a little brief demonstration about how the
12 computer works or what it looks like, so you
13 can kind of understand how we are going to
14 be doing what we are doing.

15 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: As Butch mentioned,
16 the software that we are going to be using
17 to do this project is Auto Bound, it is an
18 ESRI product, E-S-R-I, which makes GIS
19 software, and it runs on an Art View
20 platform. So any of you who are familiar

21 with GIS probably know what I just said. I
22 don't know what I just said, but some of you
23 may.

24 If there are any members of the county
25 Boards of Election commissioners, or maybe

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1 other county officials here who could pass
2 this on, we are going to try to have some
3 workstations using our hardware and software
4 set up in Little Rock and various other
5 parts of the state to help counties draw
6 their JP districts using this software,
7 rather than the traditional method that most
8 election boards have to go through, which is
9 spreading out those 15 different census maps
10 of your county and taking a calculator and
11 some crayons and figuring it out, we can use
12 this software, we think.

13 We are going to have workstations set
14 up in Little Rock, Fayetteville, and
15 Monticello. But to try to help the local

16 folks do their re-districting jobs, too.

17 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: You left out the
18 southwest Arkansas. Where was it?

19 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Well, actually, I
20 just found out that there is a GIS program
21 at the Community College in Hope. So we are
22 going to try to work with them, too. We
23 haven't contacted them yet, we just found
24 out about it. And we are going to see if we
25 can do that. We are not real sure that we

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1 are going to be able to do this at any of
2 the satellite locations.

3 I mean, it may be that if you want to
4 take advantage of this, that you may have to
5 come to Little Rock to do it. That is a
6 possibility. But again, as we are trying to
7 find out about these things, we are going to
8 try to talk to the people at Hope and see
9 what they can do. Anybody who has any
10 questions about the software or anything, I

11 would be happy to field them.

12 Other than that, we would be happy to
13 hear -- basically what we are here for is to
14 hear your comments about districting for the
15 General Assembly in this area of the state
16 and answer any questions that you may have.
17 So, with that said.

18 MR. FRANK ADAMS: Frank Adams from
19 DeQueen, Arkansas. I've got just one
20 comment. If you are going to now take the
21 data based upon precincts, it seems to me
22 that it might be logical to start looking at
23 county boundary lines, because as you have
24 done it by townships -- and I'm not faulting
25 the process, because we have always had very

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1 good representatives -- but Sevier County is
2 divided among three different representative
3 districts.

4 While we have benefited from that, it
5 seems a logical process to use those

6 precincts and to try to get along county
7 lines better. You know, for example, if you
8 had Sevier and Little River and all of
9 Howard County in one block, like senatorial
10 districts right there, it would -- it seems
11 to me to be more conducive than to break it
12 up by townships. Because then you have
13 people within those townships over here on
14 this end as you have in -- well, Dewayne
15 Mack's representative district, the
16 townships over here have hardly ever a
17 chance to know Representative Mack, to be
18 familiar with him before the election ever
19 occurs.

20 So, if you get a hot race going on,
21 when you spread that out like a great big
22 hot dog, it is very difficult for these men
23 to get around and have the constituents know
24 them, and even to serve the constituents in
25 a way that they would like to serve them. I

1 just want to put that on the record to give
2 some consideration to that. Because I think
3 it is a burden, especially upon
4 representatives like Representative Mack
5 here, because it is tough to get around that
6 whole district.

7 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes.

8 MAYOR CHAD GALLAGHER: DeQueen Mayor,
9 Chad Gallagher, and I would -- I want to
10 echo what Frank is talking about. In some
11 ways, it has been beneficial for us, because
12 we have had the opportunity to say to three
13 representatives, "Well, really, you kind of
14 represent us," which has really worked well
15 for Sevier County. But at the same time,
16 the way the lines are drawn right now, you
17 know, Sevier County is split into three
18 House districts and DeQueen is actually --
19 the City of DeQueen is split into two House
20 districts.

21 And it makes it difficult for many of
22 our constituents with term limits, there is
23 going to be more opportunity for that. If
24 any of our constituents here in our county
25 ever want to run for the House of

1 Representatives and represent us, it makes
2 it real difficult for us to elect someone
3 from Sevier County. And I know that's not
4 the -- shouldn't be the primary
5 consideration, but it is hard for our
6 county, you know, the Mayor of Gillham and
7 Mayor of Ben Lomond and I, we are all in
8 Sevier County, we meet with common needs, we
9 just met last week for an inter-local
10 government board meeting, we share needs.
11 If they have a -- need a piece of equipment
12 that maybe the City of DeQueen has, you
13 know, we try to look out for each other, but
14 all three of us are in different House
15 districts.

16 And so, you can see, you know, like
17 Frank, with due respect to the process,
18 there is not much rationale in that. So
19 that's the main thing that I would want to
20 mention, is that I hope that when it is all
21 said and done, that all of Sevier County is
22 in one district.

23 And I think that our population, the
24 Board may be surprised by our population

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growth. If we were successful -- we have a

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1 fast growing Hispanic population, we worked
2 long and hard to get them counted in the
3 census. If we are successful in that, I
4 think we will see our numbers go up a little
5 bit.

6 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: A good example of
7 that residency -- a good example of that is
8 across the street is Dewayne's district and
9 we are sitting in my district, you know.
10 That's a good example of what he is saying,
11 how the thing comes down. You go down
12 Treating Plant Road a ways, it becomes my
13 district over on that side of the street,
14 and I go on over to the Oklahoma line. But
15 it is -- it hasn't been an inconvenience
16 because we all do very well working
17 together. But I understand the point he is
18 making.

19 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir.

20 MR. JOHN HICKEL: John Hickel, Sevier
21 County. I don't live in DeQueen, I live out
22 in the county. But I also want to share the
23 same concern that Frank and Chad have
24 mentioned. It causes lots of problems,
25 because here we are a county, we are divided

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1 into three House districts. Who knows what
2 is going to take place when it comes down to
3 re-districting for the congressional
4 district, because that's going to, I would
5 imagine, with northwest Arkansas growing the
6 way it is, it is logical that they are going
7 to probably peel off a county or two.
8 Whether it is Polk County, whether it is
9 some other county, I don't know, or whatever
10 it happens to be.

11 But we hit the same thing, maybe it is
12 even less distinct when you get out in the
13 county where that magical boundary is. Here
14 we have a street, we can say, on this side

15 of the street it is one, this side, the
16 other. When we go out there around to the
17 people in the counties, who are very
18 knowledgeable people, "Who is your
19 representative?" "Well, my neighbor down
20 here has this one, the neighbor up here has
21 that one. There is no street or road going
22 right through here. And I have always voted
23 for this one."

24 So, anyhow, the other thing is, I think
25 in the county we feel like we don't really

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1 have all that much say as to who the
2 representative is for the House, because
3 your population is divided among three
4 people, and it is pretty hard to feel like
5 you are really represented, even though we
6 have -- we have been fortunate because we
7 have had good representatives. But it is
8 hard to feel real excited sometimes about
9 your county vote being split into three

10 divisions.

11 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir.

12 MR. DON BAKER: Don Baker, Pike County
13 Judge. And I have talked with Butch and
14 some other people in the Governor's office,
15 and my concern is, we are in District 32,
16 and the Glenwood area, which was the north
17 and south ward, I believe, or the townships
18 that were put in there, were taken out of 18
19 when it was redone. And, of course, we have
20 had a good representative in Roger, and Ted
21 Mullenex represented us before.

22 But we are kind of strung out at the
23 end of that, and we are the only area that's
24 not in Pike County in 18. And we feel that
25 Glenwood would actually be better

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1 represented if we were in District 18. As a
2 matter of fact, our new representative,
3 Dewayne Mack's office is in Glenwood. So --
4 and I live in Glenwood, as a matter of fact.

5 So we are very much concerned about that.
6 We would like for that to be moved, if
7 possible, and maybe some of the other -- you
8 know, I notice Garland County has a section
9 there that's in 18 that's -- could possibly
10 be changed out, that would -- when you are
11 running for these offices, you've got to pay
12 a filing fee in each one of them.

13 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Is that right?

14 MR. DON BAKER: That would help the
15 representative, also, if you could eliminate
16 one of those. But that's my concern, is
17 District 32 and 18. We would like to see
18 the Glenwood, all of Pike County in 18, if
19 possible.

20 MR. OLAN REEVES: The District 18
21 person has to file in six different
22 counties.

23 MR. DON BAKER: Yes.

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: That's one of the few
25 that has that many.

1 MR. DON BAKER: That would eliminate
2 one of them there.

3 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: And there is only
4 one city of any size in 18 --

5 MR. DON BAKER: Murfreesboro.

6 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: -- in that whole
7 big area. Yes, sir.

8 MR. KEN COWLING: Representative Elect
9 Ken Cowling, District 20. And I came in
10 just a little bit late. On these census
11 figures here --

12 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir.

13 MR. KEN COWLING: -- are these -- these
14 are estimated through July, and you may have
15 covered this in the first part of this. Are
16 these pretty accurate, or do you think that
17 they are -- that they will change much? I
18 mean, is this just kind of a good faith
19 guess as of July 1, '99, or do you feel like
20 this is probably going to follow that trend
21 when you get your final figures?

22 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: It is the Census
23 Bureau's best guess as of whatever facts
24 they had back then. You know, I think, just
25 looking at them as a whole, I think you can

1 see that they are pretty accurate, probably.
2 I mean, the delta counties, for the most
3 part, are losing population, the northwest
4 Arkansas counties, and in the counties in
5 central Arkansas, around Pulaski County, are
6 the big gainers, and everybody else is sort
7 of, you know, just hanging in there.

8 It pegs the state's growth rate over
9 the decade at about eight percent. That
10 seems about right. But, no, don't put a
11 great deal of stock in them. You know,
12 again, we have heard here in this area that
13 there is some feeling that those aren't
14 really accurate for here. You know, the
15 question is whether the people that they
16 think are actually there actually got
17 counted. But don't put a great deal of
18 stock in them. We bring them to these,
19 because I think they are just interesting,
20 you know, to look at. You kind of get an
21 idea what's going on in your area.

22 MR. KEN COWLING: Right now, my

23 district is the southern part, southern tip
24 of Sevier County, all of Little River County
25 and part of Miller County. David Hake, who

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1 is in 21, represents the city limits of
2 Texarkana. The City of Texarkana has
3 annexed a bunch of area into their
4 boundaries. You know, I don't know how many
5 more folks that they have brought into the
6 city limits. But is it feasible that that
7 district is going to -- of course, Russ
8 Bennett is in 22, I guess, Lafayette County,
9 and they have lost population, which he will
10 have to move, probably, northward. Does it
11 look like, on y'all's preliminary figures,
12 that it is going to be a shift, if there is
13 a shift, north and westerly from the way the
14 districts are now, if there is a shift?

15 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: You know, just
16 intuition tells me that.

17 MR. KEN COWLING: Yes.

18 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: And it kind of gets
19 into a point that I -- I was going to talk
20 about after we maybe finish the questions,
21 about, you know, how the whole process works
22 with regard to areas that lose population.
23 Like you've got the delta here, and
24 Mississippi County lost population,
25 according to the census numbers, down like

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1 13 percent. That's pretty big. That has
2 big implications for these districts in
3 Mississippi County. They are going to have
4 to geographically get bigger, I mean, in
5 order to find the population to put in these
6 districts, and you have got some that are
7 pretty good size already.

8 So, you know, they are looking for more
9 people, they are pushing the areas out. If
10 you have just held your own, you have still
11 got to find roughly, in a House district,
12 roughly 2,000 more people to put into a

13 district. And so you are going to have to
14 go find those people somewhere in the same
15 geographical areas. So the map is going to
16 change fairly substantially regardless of
17 where you are at. And that's, you know,
18 that's just something that everybody has to
19 keep in mind.

20 The districts over here, this is an
21 area of the population that has -- of the
22 state where the population has basically
23 held its own over the last few decades, I
24 mean, not just this decade. And so, a lot
25 of these districts have a historical basis

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1 that goes back to the '60s, you know, or
2 even the '70 re-districting. And, you know,
3 like I say, it is just a function of finding
4 those extra 2,000 people. And one of the
5 things that the Board is going to have to
6 decide is, you know, do we maintain the
7 cores of these existing districts or do we

8 go a whole different direction.

9 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: As I look at the
10 estimate numbers, it looks to me like the
11 estimate that is my district has grown
12 2,000, you know, and so I can see how, you
13 know, on the one hand, I don't see much
14 change. Now, is it plus or minus ten
15 percent, is that the law?

16 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: The way we tried to
17 do it last time was plus or minus five
18 percent. You had to plus up and the minus
19 up and you stayed below ten, that's the way
20 it works. So the biggest district, we tried
21 to make it plus five percent or lower, and
22 the smallest district, we tried to make it
23 minus five percent or lower, and managed to
24 do that. And you add those numbers up, and
25 the total variance in '91 was something like

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1 9.7 some-odd, which is under the ten percent
2 and presumptively constitutional then. You

3 are fine if you are under ten percent in
4 your variance.

5 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: Well, as I -- my
6 district runs, in Howard County, runs just
7 north of Center Point, actually, Messer
8 Creek is the dividing line. And so people
9 from Dierks will call me and say, you know,
10 "I need this," and then I say,
11 "Representative Farris is your
12 representative, I wish you would call him,"
13 or now call Dewayne. But, you know, it is
14 always confusing, and I'm hopeful that we
15 can find a way. And as I have looked at
16 some of these things, sometimes you can make
17 it sort of work on county boundaries, and
18 sometimes you can't. But that would sure be
19 nice, so people knew, so that it is not, you
20 know, "I'm not sure if it is -- who it is.
21 And so when I go vote, I will just decide
22 whose name is on the ballot, and that's how
23 I will do it." But if we could find a way
24 to do it by county lines, somehow, it would
25 be nice, I think, and it would make it

1 easier for the people.

2 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: That would probably
3 be the ideal thing. That's probably the
4 reason that the drafters of the 1874
5 Constitution set it up so that each county
6 had a representative, and then the remaining
7 25 were apportioned among the most populous
8 counties. But that went by the wayside in
9 the '60s when the Supreme Court required
10 population equality.

11 And what happens, if you just took that
12 list of counties and you could pick out
13 counties that are together, you know, side
14 by side and say, "Well, these counties would
15 go together and just be right on the money,"
16 or, "This one particular county is right at
17 25,000." But when you are actually doing
18 this job and you start in a particular
19 place, you start splitting counties and
20 then, you know, it is just really difficult
21 to maintain that.

22 And a problem, you know, people do have
23 a hard time saying that, you know, "Where is
24 the dividing line?" You know, the problem
25 is that township lines, even though our

1 basic building block this time is going to
2 be precincts, well, townships are precincts,
3 because you've got to elect JPs from
4 townships.

5 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: Right.

6 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: And so, by virtue
7 of that, some precinct lines are going to be
8 on section lines, they are not going to be
9 on any kind of -- I mean, not -- yeah,
10 section lines. They are not going to be on
11 any kind of physical boundary. And so, it
12 is just difficult to know where that
13 boundary is, if you are there on the ground.

14 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: When we look at
15 Benton County with a 40,000 estimate
16 increase, Washington County with 30,000, and
17 Faulkner and Lonoke would be good increases,
18 obviously, as they pick up representatives,
19 these districts down here have to grow
20 somewhat.

21 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Right.

22 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: Even though I gather
23 the delta is going to -- their districts are
24 going to get considerably larger in area.

25 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Right.

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1 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: I mean, Benton
2 County looks like they get another
3 representative, somehow.

4 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Right.

5 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: Are they multi?

6 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: No.

7 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: They are not?

8 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: The only
9 multi-member districts are in Fort Smith,
10 Hot Springs, and Jonesboro. Those are the
11 only ones that are left. We have been to
12 Fort Smith and Jonesboro, and we've got
13 mixed signals of whether they want to keep
14 those or not.

15 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: Right. I saw in the
16 paper that Fort Smith sort of were mixed.

17 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Right.

18 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: Some of them want to
19 stay multi, and some of them want to go --

20 MR. KEN COWLING: If you have to split
21 a county up, and I think Chad had mentioned
22 it earlier, and Frank did, also, if
23 consideration could be given to at least
24 drawing straight lines across. You know, if
25 you are going to split Sevier County up, you

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1 know, if I pick up additional Sevier County,
2 instead of zigzagging around Sevier County
3 where folks are unsure on where their
4 representative line starts and stops, and I
5 have got the same problem not only in Sevier
6 County, but in Miller County, we have got
7 three representatives, that all three of us
8 could get together in places in Texarkana
9 and we couldn't tell you whose precinct we
10 are standing in, you know.

11 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Right.

12 MR. KEN COWLING: This has been ten
13 years and they still don't know where some
14 of the lines are in Miller County.

15 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes. And to the
16 extent that's a problem down here where
17 you've got crooked lines, it is because
18 those township boundaries happen to be on
19 creeks or they are just, you know, one way
20 or the other. It is sort of a function of
21 the way the political boundaries are right
22 now. If you look at a map of Texas
23 sometime, you ought to look at that, but
24 especially out in west Texas and see how it
25 is just like a checkerboard out there, they

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1 are just as square as they can be. And it
2 is not like that, obviously, in this part of
3 the country.

4 MR. FRANK ADAMS: Frank Adams from
5 DeQueen, again. You know, I know this
6 re-class would be very difficult to do, but

7 I think it needs to have some consideration.
8 When we are drawing those lines, not only
9 the population, but the relationship of that
10 population within the lines, there is very
11 little relationship between Dierks and
12 Glenwood, there is a good deal of
13 relationship between Murfreesboro and
14 Nashville.

15 So if you are going to do it by
16 precincts and get into county, then we ought
17 to look at what is the relationship between
18 these communities and people within that
19 district. I know that's difficult to do,
20 but some consideration could be given to
21 that concept, looking at the dynamics of the
22 demographics, not just numbers.

23 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: That's exactly why
24 we are here today, is because we are from
25 Little Rock. Of course, nobody is from

2 Warren, and, you know, we are from all over.
3 Now, Butch is from southwest Arkansas, and,
4 you know, we've got folks from Hot Springs
5 and everything like that. But, I mean, we
6 are in Little Rock, you know, we don't -- we
7 can't know these things just sitting up in
8 Little Rock. We've got to come to y'all,
9 and that's exactly why we are here.

10 MR. DICK TALLMAN: I'm Dick Tallman,
11 Sevier County judge. You know, if like the
12 projected population right now, it shows
13 Larry's district to be -- to grow 2,000, and
14 it would be real easy to leave it the same.
15 But if we are correct, and if we counted,
16 you know, our population growth accurately,
17 we think we are going to grow by 4,000
18 people or maybe more. And those 4,000
19 people are going to be in DeQueen, or very
20 close to DeQueen, and are primarily
21 Hispanics, which so far haven't gotten very
22 active in the election process. So if we
23 don't try to figure out a way to get our
24 boundaries out toward the county lines, we
25 are going to have DeQueen sitting here with

1 a lot of votes that don't vote, so we are
2 going to lose power in Sevier County, you
3 know, in at least Larry's district, to elect
4 anybody.

5 MR. TOM SHAW: It is a good point.

6 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Well, and I don't
7 know that you are addressing this issue or
8 not. But we talked previously about the
9 fact that DeQueen is split. And, you know,
10 that will not happen this time. I mean, I
11 feel comfortable in speaking for the Board
12 in saying that, that that kind of thing
13 won't happen this time. And the reason it
14 happened last time is because of the fact
15 that townships were our basic building
16 blocks.

17 And when we were doing this last time,
18 we had a township map and we didn't see the
19 city limits of anything, and so we put Bear
20 Creek township in one district and Monroe
21 township in another district, you know, and
22 there you go. I'm the only person here who
23 was involved in that process then, and I can
24 just tell you, we made a mistake in doing

that, and we learn things as we go along.

1 Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. WAUSITA HINTON: But I'm like
3 Kenny, if you went by section lines -- if
4 you go by section lines, then it can be
5 squared up, you won't have to go by a creek
6 over here, or log over there.

7 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Well, again, the
8 problem is that the political boundary, the
9 boundary that the Census Bureau uses to
10 calculate the population -- I mean, to show
11 the population of a township or a precinct
12 is on a physical -- you know, is often on a
13 river or something like that, a lake
14 boundary, and it is not on -- sometimes it
15 is on a section line.

16 But -- well, let's just look at the
17 crooked lines in this area here. This line
18 here is on the river, this line here is on a
19 river, this one here is on a river.

20 (Indicating.) That's how you wind up with
21 lines like that, because those are township
22 boundaries, and by the same token, they are
23 also precinct boundaries. So you are going
24 to have crooked lines, there is no getting
25 away from that.

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1 MS. WAUSITA HINTON: But I worked the
2 census and you went by a road, and they were
3 in blocks.

4 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Let me show you
5 what the census is going to report. Greg,
6 maybe you could get to that.

7 MS. WAUSITA HINTON: And I cannot
8 believe that Little River County lost as
9 many in population.

10 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Well, again, don't
11 put a great deal of stock in these numbers.

12 MS. WAUSITA HINTON: That's almost a
13 thousand people.

14 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: These are just

15 estimates by the census, and we won't know
16 for sure what the numbers are until April 1
17 of next year. You know, I think they are
18 probably pretty accurate, generally, but I
19 don't vouch for them at all. Maybe break it
20 down to --

21 MR. LARRY CRANE: If you could, when
22 you speak, please give your name every time,
23 when you come back into the discussion, and
24 only talk one at a time.

25 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Maybe zoom in a

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1 little tighter around DeQueen. The Census
2 Bureau is going to give us the numbers of
3 the precincts, here is a precinct line, and
4 that's a city boundary line, as well. The
5 Census Bureau is going to give a population
6 for the state as a whole, for the county as
7 a whole, and on down to townships and
8 precincts. They are going to give us a
9 population of this precinct, and they are

10 going to give us the population of each of
11 these blocks inside a precinct.

12 So, when I say our basic building block
13 is going to be the precinct, that's what --
14 we are going to try not to split precincts
15 when we are drawing these lines. In order
16 to split precincts, you have to go down to
17 block level. We don't have to do that in
18 this part of the state, and I feel safe in
19 saying that we probably won't split
20 precincts in this part of the state. But
21 yes, I mean, we've got -- we will know what
22 the population is in that block, a total
23 population broken down by age, race, sex,
24 all those demographic criteria that the
25 Census uses.

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1 MR. OLAN REEVES: I would like to point
2 out one other thing that has happened, I
3 guess in the last year and a half. The
4 Secretary of State and a group out of

5 Fayetteville has spent an awful lot of time
6 going county by county to make sure the
7 state maps match the county maps, because we
8 found out from some elections four years
9 ago, or even earlier, that the maps that the
10 county clerk or the circuit clerk had in
11 their office didn't match the maps that were
12 in the Secretary of State's office, they
13 were off.

14 So they have spent an inordinate amount
15 of time making sure the maps that are in the
16 county are the same maps that are in the
17 state, if you know what I'm talking about,
18 because the lines would be different. They
19 would call the Secretary of State and say,
20 "Do I live in this district?" "Yes." Go to
21 the county and they would say, "No, you
22 don't." And it caused a lot of confusion.
23 So those maps have hopefully been
24 straightened out so that we don't have that
25 confusion.

1 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: They are better now
2 than they were when we started this decade.
3 Of course, we have used them up, because
4 there are not going to be any more elections
5 with these districts. And they are going to
6 be a lot better, the maps. I don't know if
7 there are any, again, county election
8 officials here, county clerks or anything,
9 but the maps are going to be a whole lot
10 better this time than they were last time.
11 Basically, there weren't any maps last time.
12 What we sent to the county clerks and the
13 county election officials were just lists of
14 townships, basically, in your area. So it
15 is going to be a lot better this time.

16 I don't know if Butch mentioned this or
17 not, but after we -- I think he did, but I
18 will just reiterate that after we get the
19 numbers and staff here sits down and draws
20 the plan -- and draws a plan or plans, we
21 will be coming back out to the local areas,
22 I mean, probably not DeQueen, necessarily,
23 but somewhere in this area, and putting up
24 maps like this and like this, and again
25 getting your input about what the final map

1 will actually look like.

2 MR. OLAN REEVES: And they will be
3 drafts.

4 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes, they will be
5 drafts. I mean, this will be sometime, we
6 are thinking about early summer, maybe,
7 doing this process, late spring, early
8 summer. We are looking for an October date
9 to actually adopt a plan. So we will be
10 trying to get your input then. And I will
11 tell you this, that the Board of
12 Apportionment changed plans that were
13 drafted by the staff after that round of
14 hearings that we had back in '91. So I
15 think the voices of the people in those
16 areas will be heard.

17 And we really encourage you to use not
18 only these forums, but our message board on
19 our website. We've got a comment area on
20 our website where you can sign in and tell
21 us these kinds of things. And we really
22 encourage you to use those kind of things to
23 give us the information that we need to draw

24 the plan.

25 Any other questions or comments?

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1 (No response.)

2 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: We appreciate
3 everybody coming out.

4 MR. LARRY TEAGUE: We appreciate you
5 guys taking the time to come out, and
6 appreciate y'all's efforts.

7 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Thanks.

8 (WHEREUPON, at 11:30 a.m., the taking
9 of the above-entitled public hearing was
10 concluded.)

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1 SIGN-IN SHEET.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

COUNTY OF PULASKI) ss.:
)

I, DEBBYE L. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter and notary public in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the _____ day of _____, 2000.

DEBBYE L. PETRE, CCR
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

My Commission Expires:

August 4, 2010.

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